

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Currently Amended) A hardware ID for identifying a plurality of components of a computer system, wherein the hardware ID is stored on the computer system and is generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system, wherein the hardware ID comprises:

a CD-ROM device portion identifying a CD-ROM device of the computer system;

a disk adapter portion identifying a disk adapter of the computer system;

a disk device portion identifying a disk device of the computer system;

a display adapter portion identifying a display adapter of the computer system;

a first drive serial portion identifying a disk drive of the computer system;

a MAC address portion identifying a MAC address of the computer system;

a processor serial number portion identifying a processor serial number of the computer system;

a processor type portion identifying a processor type of the computer system;

a RAM size portion identifying a RAM size of the computer system; and

a SCSI adapter portion identifying a SCSI adapter of the computer system,

wherein the hardware ID comprises a predetermined number of bits representing the plurality of components and wherein the hardware ID comprises a variable number of bits representing each portion of the hardware ID, the variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component in the plurality of components ~~the CD-ROM device portion, the disk adapter portion, the disk device portion, the display adapter portion, the first serial drive portion, the MAC address portion, the processor serial number portion, the processor type portion, the RAM size portion, and the SCSI adapter portion of the~~

~~hardware ID are generated during the installation of the software product on the computer system.~~

9. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the hardware ID is 64 bits.
10. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the CD-ROM device portion comprises a hashing of a CD-ROM device identification string.
11. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the disk adapter portion comprises a hashing of disk adapter peripheral component interface (PCI) vendor and device identifications.
12. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the disk device portion comprises a hashing of a disk device identification string.
13. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the display adapter portion comprises a hashing of video adapter PCI vendor and device identifications.
14. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the first drive serial portion comprises a hashing of an operating system assigned serial number of a first partition.
15. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the MAC address portion comprises a hardware address of a network interface connecting the computer system to a shared network.
16. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the processor serial number portion comprises an identification of the manufacturer's serial number for the processor of the computer system.
17. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the RAM size portion comprises the size of the RAM in the computer system in megabytes.

18. (Original) The hardware ID of claim 8 wherein the SCSI adapter portion comprises an identification of the Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) adapter of the computer system.

Claims 19-21. (Withdrawn)